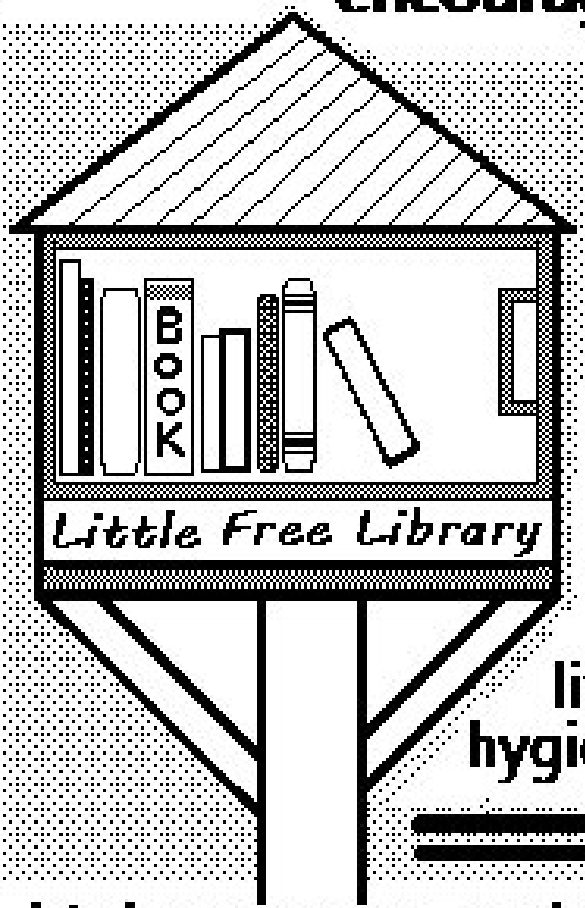
modern commoning zine

creative ways people are reestablishing the commons in a time where capitalism feels inescapable

Little Free Library

usually these are a box of books set on a signpost at the curb of a house, church, playground, etc. people are encouraged to



"take a book, leave a book,"

some expansions on this idea I've seen and loved:

video/DVD sharing,
trinket swaps,
zine libraries, seeds,
crafting materials,
little free pantries,
hygiene/period products

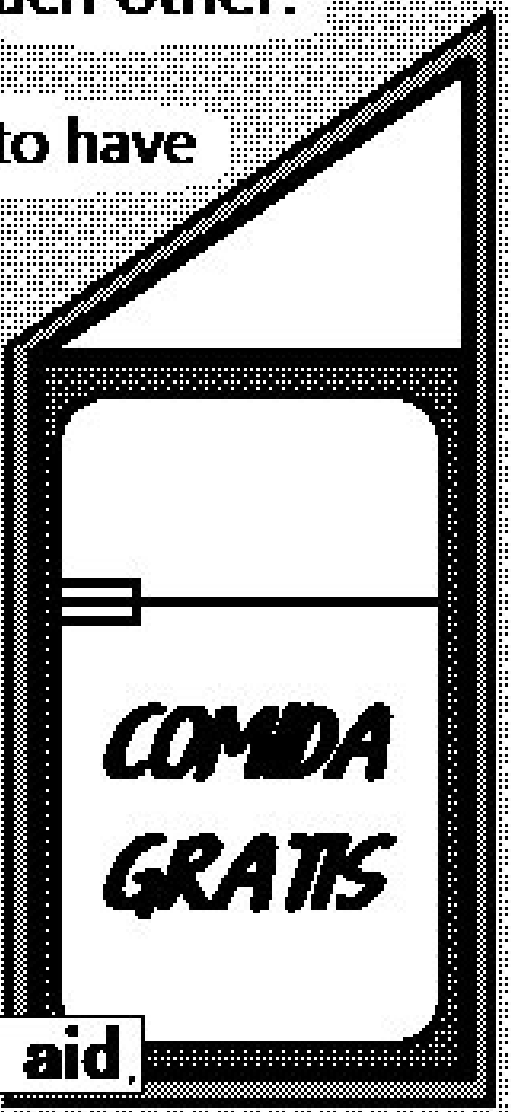
it's become somewhat commodified by a non-profit by the same name, which is disappointing to me. they sell their own fancy library boxes and even bundles of books. but the beauty of this concept is how easy it is to do-it-yourself and shape it in a way that serves yr neighborhood.

Community Fridge

"take what you need,
leave what you can"

a community fridge is really as simple as a refrigerator that's outside and available for neighbors to share food with each other.

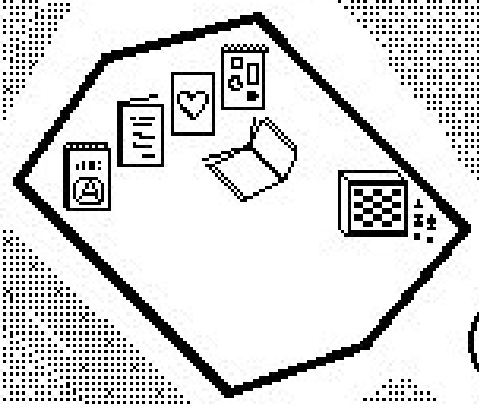
it's (usually) important to have some sort of formal stewarding to ensure it stays clean, the electricity is hooked up safely, and to help coordinate some of the regular food drop-offs. but almost all are run autonomously and led by unincorporated volunteers just helping to divert food waste and address food insecurity thru **mutual aid**.



really really free market

really really free markets are events that can take place in a park or other publicly accessible space where people can share items together in community

they can happen on a regular schedule, or spontaneously whenever one feels like hosting. hosts should have some plan for what to do with leftover items after. and lots of radical zines to share about gift economies and mutual aid!



themed swaps

these are a lot like the really really free market, but with a specific category of item being shared. also not always outdoors or public; you can scale it down for just yr friend group or as part of another event

clothing swap

plant swap

seed exchange

soup club

pot-luck

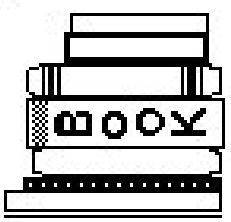
the possibilities are endless

the humble free pile

a free pile is just a bunch of stuff (or maybe just one big thing) you don't need that you put out for anyone to take it.

your free pile could be on the curb, or a table in your apartment building's laundry room, or really anywhere that people will see it.

for leaving stuff outside -- you can put a "curb alert" on Craigslist, or just let fate do its thing.



digital sharing

freecycle was the original one, then we got craigslist's FREE section (and I think the RIDESHARE section could also count). then people started making Buy Nothing/Everything is Free/etc. groups on Facebook in, I want to say, the 2010s, but sadly, the phrase "Buy Nothing" was patented and turned into a non-profit and an app. now the BuyNothing™ people go after the free FB groups for using the name. it's disgusting and a betrayal of the whole idea in my opinion. (the app also has a lot of tracking and bloat, as does Facebook which is arguably worse to be fair)

I personally stick to Craigslist these days and a large local group chat on Signal someone made

I made this zine to both promote and contextualize the different places and events that people are building that allow them to share with one another. long ago, before capitalism, it was very normal to share and hold things in common, to give things away without the expectation of barter or exchange.

the fact that we continue to create new ways to share and promote mutual aid just solidifies how unnatural and frankly absurd capitalism really is.

take what you want
take what you need
there's plenty to go around
everything is free

<3 with love and fuck capitalism,
kimberly - summer 2026
mylastcopyscam.neocities.org/free